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FORGERY DETECTED.

By which is evinced how *groundless* are
ALL the CALUMNIES cast upon the *Editor*,
in a Pamphlet published under the Name of
Arthur Dobbs, Esq;

By Capt. CHRISTOPHER MIDDLETON,
late Commander of his Majesty's Ship, Furnace,
when sent upon the Search of a North-West
Passage to the Western American Ocean.



L O N D O N :

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T O

ARTHUR DO BBS,

*Of Castle Dobbs, in the County
of Antrim, and Kingdom of
Ireland, Esq;*



W H E N my Suspicion of a Letter and Draught from Mr. *George Axx* being a Forgery, was verified, it was incumbent on me to publish so iniquitous a Procedure to blast my Reputation ; and as You, Sir, by printing and making your Inferences from this flagrant Piece of Villainy, have contributed by

A 2

your

ii DEDICATION.

your great Character of Probity, however unknowingly, to the imposing on the Public, I thought you the only proper Person, to whom I could dedicate the Detection of the *Roguery*, as your Reputation seems (to me at least) established as it is, to be brought into question; notwithstanding you have lately given such undeniable Proofs of an indefatigable Ardency, such uncommon Zeal for the Discovery of Truth, and the having condign and exemplary Punishment inflicted on such as dare to contravene her sacred Dictates, and hide her Beauties from the Eyes of the Public: You, Sir, who are her professed Admirer, cannot but be sensible of an uncommon Satisfaction in reading the following Sheets, in which you will find her emerge from under a Load of infamous Calumny, Artifice, and the united Efforts of profligate Wretches, to bear her down: Wretches! who have skreened themselves

DEDICATION. iii

selves under your unblemished Character, under your great Name.

She has often been thus oppressed, but by the friendly Hand of Time, as often broke through and baffled the Oppositions she has had to struggle with, from artful and (for a while) successful Villainy; has risen triumphantly gloriously, and as *Antæus*, Son of the Earth, gathered Strength from his Foils, so the lovely *Goddeſs* ever appeared with a more dazzling Radiancy, proportion'd to the Wiles, she confounded, and the Power she had to combat, spreading Shame and Confusion over the Face of her Enemies. You, Sir, who are her professed Votary, cannot, I say, but receive ineffable Pleasure in seeing her triumph over malicious and deliberate Falſhood; You, Sir, who are the Friend to oppressed calumniated Innocence, muſt rejoice to ſee Truth victorious, and by her Appearance do Juſtice to the Oppreſſed, by throwing the Infamy deſigned for his Ruin, on the
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iv DEDICATION.

infamous Contrivers, and casting them into the Pits they had dug for others. To whom, then, could I so properly inscribe the following Triumph of Truth over Malice, Avarice, Revenge, manifest Perjury, and undeniable Forgery, as to a Gentleman conspicuous for the Virtues opposite to these mean, these dangerous, pestiferous Vices, as much as for his public Spirit, and who has been made the Tool of wicked Men, to fight against the Deity he adores? for the World must acquit you of all Design which can impugn your remarkable Probity, tho' it may be surpris'd to find you have, once in your Life, taken an inadvertent Step, and been drawn in by Men of inferior Talents, and no Learning, to give the Sanction of your Name, and the Advantage of your convincing, reasoning upon, for the Support of Falshood; but *Nemo omnibus Horis sapit*: And your Character of Prudence does by
this

DEDICATION. v

this Surprize upon you, verify the Saying.

It is true that the Character of your great Probity and other Virtues I take upon Hearsay, as do most Dedicators, — few knowing more than the Titles of the Patrons they chuse; wherefore, if the following Sheets seem any where to speak my Dissent from the Voice of common Fame, it is giving you an Opportunity to prove, that notwithstanding her Character of a common Lyar, with Regard to yours, she has spoken the Truth. This, as 'tis incumbent on you, you may do by giving up the Forger, acknowledging that you have been imposed upon; and thus make what Reparation is in your Power, for an Attempt to blast the good Name of,

S I R,

Your humble Servant,

Christopher Middleton.

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Forgery Detected.

 HERE is not any Passion so hurtful to others, and to even the Person it actuates, as the Thirst of Revenge: He, who is possessed with this Fury, is blind to all Danger, considers no Consequence, will expose his Reputation, and hurried on by the Warmth of Resentment, neglecting to secure himself while he attacks the Person who is the Object of his Anger, gives him an Advantage which may prove his own Overthrow, and the Protection of the Man he would hurt. 'Tis nothing wonderful, that this is frequently the Effect of Rage, and of the Spirit of Revenge, as Men in such a Temper of Mind, reject all the Remonstrances of Reason. I fear this is the Case of Mr. *Dobbs*, whom I have unfortunately irritated, by preferring my own Integrity to his Views of Advantage to himself; I wish I may be mistaken, though Appearances make strongly against him, as he himself in his Pamphlet, intitled, *Remarks on my Defence*, seems to have evinced this

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was the only Ground of his Resentment to me. He therein acknowledges his Design to dissolve the *Hudson's-Bay Company*; and that he had endeavoured to infringe their Privilege, of an exclusive Trade, by sending thither a Cargoe, clandestinely put on Board one of his Majesty's Ships under my Command; which I prevented (as it was my Duty) being fold, in Prejudice to the Company's Charter, and absolutely contrary to my Instructions from the Lords of the Admiralty.

This possibly was a Crime, in Mr. *Dobbs's* Opinion, which nothing less could atone than my entire Ruin in Fortune and Character; accordingly, the Latter he violently attacked, as the ready Means to destroy the Former. An anonymous Letter, shrewdly suspected to be a Shaft out of Mr. *Dobbs's* own Quiver, was made the Ground of an Enquiry into my Conduct while I was employ'd by the Government to discover, if possible, a North-West Passage into the *Western American Ocean*. I speak from what to me is apparent in his before-mentioned Book, and am so far from having any personal Pique to that Gentleman, that I heartily wish he may entirely disculp himself, and the Warmth which appears in his Writing, and the indecent Language with which he has treated me, may prove to be the sole Effects of public Zeal, and Love of Truth; wherefore I shall make no farther Apology for what I shall hereafter say in the Defence of my own Character, and the exposing the vile Means made Use of to blast my Re-

Reputation. ----- I shall extract from the Pamphlet published by Mr. *Dobbs*, the Charge brought against me in that Work, which is of a very heinous Nature ; no less than a Breach of Trust, and Bribery, by which I eluded the Hopes, and squandered the Money, of the Public, to make my own private Fortune. For

I was sent out with the Command of two of his Majesty's Ship's at the Nation's Expence, to make a Discovery, which, having taken a Bribe of Five Thousand Pounds from the *Hudson's-Bay* Company, I am taxed with concealing.

It is true, that upon examining into the Validity of the Grounds on which this Accusation was raised, and on the publishing my Defence, I was acquitted, in the Opinion of my Superiors, of having been thus guilty, tho' the Letter and Draught which occasions this present Appeal to my Countrymen, may possibly have since prejudiced me in the Minds of many.

The Lords of the Admiralty, who are my proper Judges, deeming the Reasons brought against me to prove my Corruption insufficient, did not convince Mr. *Dobbs*, who, anxious for the Discovery of Truth, made the strictest Enquiry into my Conduct during the Voyage, among my Officers and Men, and having found Four, whose Testimony he relied upon, doubtless not believing them capable of deliberate Falshood, published the Book already mentioned, in which is printed the following Letter,

ter, and Draught, p. 144, and 145, of his *Remarks*, thus introduced.

Here follows, George Axx, the Gunner's Letter, which he sent with his Draught of the Frozen Streight near Cape Frigid, which is a Duplicate of what he sent to one of the Lords of the Admiralty.

N^o. XXXIX.

" Mr. Wigate. Liverpool, April 15, 1743.

Sir,

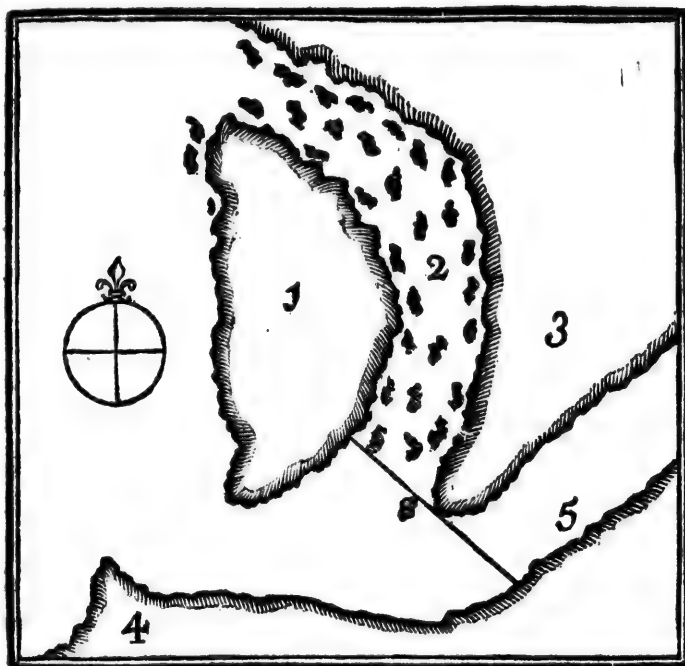
" THIS comes in Answer to your Letter, and I have sent you the best I know. And as for that Place where the Captain, and you, and myself, and the Carpenter was, it is an Island, that I am sure of; and it was about three Leagues from this Island to the Main, and the Island about seven Leagues long; and as for the Height of the Land I cannot tell, but it was as high as any of the rest as ever you see any where about that Place; and there is a Sketch of it. But as to that you must excuse, because I cannot do it no otherwise; but that is it to my best Opinion. Pray give my Duty to the Captain, and be so good to let me know when he gets a Ship, and what Ship; and in so doing, you will much oblige

" Your Humble Servant,

" George Axx."

Mr.

The DRAUGHT.



REFERENCES in the Gunner's Words.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. The Island that <i>You</i> was upon with the Capt. the Carpenter, and myself; it is about three Leagues from the Main.</p> <p>2. This was a whole Body of Ice, frozen from Side to Side, with about thirty small</p> | <p>Islands in the Middle and Sides, and is about 7 Leagues long, and 3 wide.</p> <p>3. This is the Main: Very high Land.</p> <p>4. <i>Low-Beach</i> Point.</p> <p>5. <i>A Channel</i> running NE.</p> |
|--|---|

Mr.

Mr. *Dobbs*, undoubtedly, imposed upon by too great a Confidence in his Informers Veracity, with their Assistance endeavoured to falsify my Chart, by publishing one which he thought more correct, and in which, Straits and Openings are laid down, where in reality it is main Land; real Straits are stopped up to prove the Impossibility of Tides coming in from the *Eastern American Ocean*, and they are inverted to bring them from the *Western*; and thus corroborate the Informations given to Mr. *Dobbs*, whom I must doubtless acquit of all sinister Design in the Publication of this Draught, and attribute its Errors, to that of Men, whose Characters are not so well established; and to his own Credulity occasioned by his Concern for the Public Welfare, and Love of Justice: And it must be unquestionably true, that the strict Enquiry he made among my Officers and Men, and the Encouragement he gave them to speak Truth, arose from the same laudable Principles; for no one can suspect that Gentleman's Probity, and he himself shews us, that these were his only Motives, in p. 75, and seq. including Part of 78, which I shall transcribe, as every one who may read these Sheets may not have his Book. Speaking of me, he says, " Now most of the Affidavits he has produced, " seem chiefly designed to *take off* Mess. *Thompson* and *Wigate's* Evidence against the *Captain*, it being *too strong* to be contradicted; " and therefore from *loose* Expressions they " made use of in his Affidavit-Men's Hearing, " they

“ they would alledge there was *Malice* and
 “ *Pique* in their Behaviour to the *Captain*. All
 “ that is attempted to invalidate their Evidence,
 “ is from *Wilson's* and *Macbeth's* Affidavits; for
 “ *Dewilde's* is nothing to the Purpose.

“ *Wilson*, the *Master*, who only seems to
 “ push *that Matter*, and who swears nothing
 “ upon any *material Article*, swears in very
 “ *indeterminate* and *loose Words*, that *Thompson*
 “ and *Wigate* only wanted him to *complete a*
 “ *certain Purpose*; that *he might expect to be*
 “ *employ'd in Captain Middleton's Place*; and
 “ *so brought him to me*. Was there any *Crime*
 “ in this, if strictly true? They wanted him to
 “ declare *the Truth* against the *Captain*, who,
 “ they *were sure* had misbehaved; for if any
 “ Thing more had been said, he proved a very
 “ willing Evidence for the *Captain*, and would
 “ *certainly* here have sworn it against them.
 “ Accordingly he came, and I have already
 “ declared, which I shall do upon Oath, when
 “ required, that he said, *The Water, as far as*
 “ *he had been, was salt*; that *there was a fair*
 “ *Channel, four or five Leagues broad beyond the*
 “ *Islands running S. W. as far as he could see,*
 “ *between very high broken Lands, quite free*
 “ *from Ice*; and that *he was sure, from that,*
 “ *and the Whales seen, which he said must have*
 “ *come from the Westward, for they never come*
 “ *in from the East Entrance of Wager River,*
 “ *otherwise they must have seen them below, that*
 “ *there was a Passage*. This, with several o-
 “ ther Facts, he *voluntarily* declared to me,

“ up-

“ upon my telling him all the Interest I had in
 “ it was, to have *the Truth* known, and have
 “ the *Whole* appear; which, upon my de-
 “ firing it, he promised to *reduce into Writing*
 “ and *sign* it, and Mr. *Wigate* was to assist him
 “ in putting it into Form, which was the Oc-
 “ casion of Mess. *Wigate* and *Thompson's* wait-
 “ ing upon him again, to have it reduced into
 “ Writing; nor is it likely, if, as he swears,
 “ he should refuse to put it into Writing when
 “ I desired him, but only refered to his Jour-
 “ nal, that *Wigate* and *Thompson* would go to
 “ him again to assist him in putting it down in
 “ Writing. Upon his leaving me, the Cap-
 “ tain gets him to his Lodgings, and there *tu-*
 “ *tors* him and *prevails* upon him, either by
 “ *Promises*, or out of *Compassion* to him, not
 “ to come near me to give Evidence, but to
 “ refer to his *Journal* and *Report*. Now it is
 “ no way surprising that Mr. *Thompson* and
 “ *Wigate* upon seeing him again, should be
 “ concerned and angry at finding him *shuffle*,
 “ and say, *He would reduce nothing into Writ-*
 “ *ing, nor come near me any more; for he would*
 “ *be the Ruin of no Man, he would beg his*
 “ *Bread first*; nor is it wonderful that I should
 “ express a Surprise at the Master's acting a
 “ Part so contrary to what he had *voluntarily*
 “ owned to me; and I believe I might say,
 “ *What, has the Captain got him? It was very*
 “ *lucky that he came here before the Captain saw*
 “ *him*, otherwise he would not have owned
 “ what he did.

“ Now,

" Now, was their bringing him to me, or
 " endeavouring to get him to own the Truth,
 " *criminal* in them, when they were acting for
 " the *Public Good*, in detecting the *Captain's*
 " *Frauds, Neglect*, and, perhaps, *Corruption*?
 " Ought they not, by all *proper Methods*, to
 " procure Evidence to support *their own*?
 " Nay, if they had given him Hopes of *being*
 " *employ'd*, in case he told the Truth, is that
 " *any way criminal*? Or was their speaking in
 " *hard Terms* against the *Captain*, if he has
 " misbehaved in so *shameful* a Manner, a Crime,
 " by saying, *They would have him broke*, &c.
 " So that his *principal* Evidence has failed
 " in proving any thing against them; and
 " *Macbeath's* Evidence is much less to the Pur-
 " pose. As to Mr. *Wigate's* boasting that *he*
 " *would do the Captain's Business*, and that *he*
 " *expected to be made a Purser*, it is very natu-
 " ral for him to have *said or thought* so, when
 " he knew the *Captain's Frauds and Miscon-*
 " *duct*, &c. and that he would deserve a Re-
 " ward in detecting him: Nor are his Expres-
 " sions about his Letters from me any way
 " material, supposing them true; for upon
 " their informing me by an anonymous Let-
 " ter, that there was a Passage, (which was
 " concealed by the *Captain through Roguery*, by
 " making Tides and Frozen Straits where there
 " were none, which *they would stand to*, and
 " were willing to *risque their Lives in another*
 " *Attempt*.) I answered their Letter, directing
 " to a feigned Name, as they appointed me;

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" and

“ and told them if they were *real* Persons, and
 “ made good what they wrote, upon hearing
 “ from them again, I would come strait to
 “ *London*, and assist them with all my Interest
 “ in another Attempt. Now, How can these
 “ *Affidavits* invalidate their Evidence? On the
 “ contrary, Have they not, by *proper* Evidence
 “ and Reason, proved that there is no *Frozen*
 “ *Strait* or *Tide* from it, such as can answer
 “ *his* Purpose, which being proved, makes out
 “ every other Fact, and proves that the *Tide*
 “ in the *Welcome* comes from a *Western*
 “ *Ocean*, and all the Whales from thence ac-
 “ cording to *his own* Letters.

“ As to *Dewilde's* Affidavit, what does it
 “ signify? When the *Licutenant*, *Surgeon* and
 “ *Clerk*, had fully proved the *Captain's* Misbe-
 “ haviour to the *Satisfaction* of the Lords of
 “ the Admiralty, I recommended them, and
 “ told them, they would be taken Care of un-
 “ til the Season offered for undertaking another
 “ Voyage, when they would be employ'd.
 “ These *Affidavits* are like Men, *drowning*,
 “ catching at Straws, and shew a *very bad*
 “ Cause; for he found their Evidence was
 “ *strong* against him.”

What an uncommon Zeal has this worthy
 honest Gentleman shewn, what indefatigable
 Pains has he taken to discover Fraud? Here is
 nothing like tampering with Witnesses, the
 Hopes given of Preferment, that he might en-
 gage these Men in the Interest of their Country,
 was certainly laudable, and entirely with a View
 to

to the Public Good ; I acknowledge I have not been always in the same Way of thinking, and the Injury Mr. *Dobbs* has done me in my Character with some few, but thank God very few, caused a Resentment which was too prevalent for my Reason, and represented him to me in a Light disadvantageous to his Reputation, for which I as heartily beg his Pardon, as I sincerely repent ; but, *Humanum est errare* ; and I own myself so fallible, that I thought, little considering his great Character, in the unhappy Temper of Mind I then was, that he had private Interest to serve, and his particular Pique to gratify, in his avowed Design, to break the *Hudson's-Bay* Company ; and as a Step previous and necessary to that End, imagined, that he attacked me in the tenderest Part ; but I am now convinced as much, I believe, as any Man, that Mr. *Dobbs* is above all sordid Views, and had nothing so much at Heart as the Public Interest, in his Designs to lay open the Trade of the above Company ; and I am the more confirmed in this Opinion, by his insinuating so much in the above Book, as he never could be guilty of deliberate Falshood ; wherefore his saying, He would give his Oath that Mr. *Wilson* informed him of Facts, which, he the said *Wilson*, denies ; and which Facts are, in reality, pure Invention, must be attributed to either the strong Impressions of a Dream, or to a Failure in Memory, which has occasioned his confounding Names and Things, joining the

Master's to the Fictions of some of his Witnesses. But

To return to the Letter and Draught, which I shall prove a Forgery ; though far be it from me to impute such an unfair Procedure to a Gentleman of Mr. *Dobbs's* Virtue. I acknowledge that, at the first, it occasioned my Surprise, that a Man whom I had always deemed very honest, and had an universal good Character, should write what he knew to be false ; but reflecting on the dirty Measures pursued to ruin me, and the Inconsistency of the Gunner's presenting his Duty to me, while, by his Evidence, he endeavoured to support such Measures, I concluded the Letter *forged* ; and therefore, in p. 48 of my *Reply*, treated it as a *Forgery*. These are my Words :

“ *As to the Gunner's Draught, I have two Reasons to doubt its being genuine : The First, because the Man bears a very honest Character ; and the Second, because he contradicts what he himself signed (being called into the Council held the Eighth of August) when it was read to him by the Clerk, in Presence of the other signing Officers.*”

Though I really believed the Letter and Draught a *Forgery*, it was what I could not prove ; I was obliged, patiently, to submit to my Antagonist's exulting in having such flagrant Proof to detect my *Roguery* ; and I don't doubt but this Letter and Draught made an Impression on some People very much to my Disadvantage.

advantage. But I was not the only one who questioned this Letter and Draught, said to be written and drawn by *Axx*, my Gunner, being genuine, as appears by the following Letter, Draught and Affidavit, sent by my Carpenter, whose Absence Mr. *Dobbs* bewails, in his Remarks, as a material Evidence to detect me.

Sir,

“ **Y**OUR's of the 23d Inst. is now before
 “ me, and I have carefully perused
 “ *George Axx's* Letter with the Plan, and am
 “ ashamed any one pretending to set forth the
 “ Nature of a Country, should set it forth in
 “ so stupid a Manner, it being intirely wrong;
 “ and herewith you'll receive, as under, a just
 “ Plan of the *Frozen Straits*, and the Land
 “ thereabouts, which I took in my Journal at
 “ *Cape Frigid*, and which was signed and ap-
 “ proved of, by *John Rankin*, Lieutenant;
 “ *Robert Wilson*, Master; and *George Axx* and
 “ myself. As to the Flood-Tides, I found
 “ from *Wager River* towards *Cape Frigid* to
 “ come from the E.N.E. and into *Mistake Bay*
 “ from the South-East, which came through
 “ the *Frozen Straits*; and that *Cape Frigid* is a
 “ Joynt-Land with the *Low Beach* in the *Wel-*
 “ *come*, or *Main*. And at the Time we were
 “ at *Cape Frigid*, it being a very strong Run,
 “ above four Knots; as we came off with the
 “ Boat near *Sun Sett*, at almost high Water,
 “ it drove the Ships away to the Westward on
 “ the

“ the Flood, and was like to have halled them
 “ into the Mouth of the *Frozen Straits* on the
 “ Ebb. When we went on Shore, which
 “ was about Eleven of the Clock the next
 “ Morning, the Water being fallen about 5 or
 “ 6 Foot. All Flood Tides, came from the East-
 “ ward through the Straits that flowed up *Wa-*
 “ *ger River* to *Brook Cobham*. The above, Sir,
 “ is a true State of the Affair, and the Country
 “ is justly and fairly stated in the annexed Plan.
 “ I am just going to sail, or would have sent
 “ you a Copy of my Journal, wherein the Ori-
 “ ginal Plan is taken, but hope this with my
 “ Affidavit enclosed, will be satisfactory to you,
 “ and clear up the vile Aspersions as have been
 “ cast on you by your Adversaries. I am,

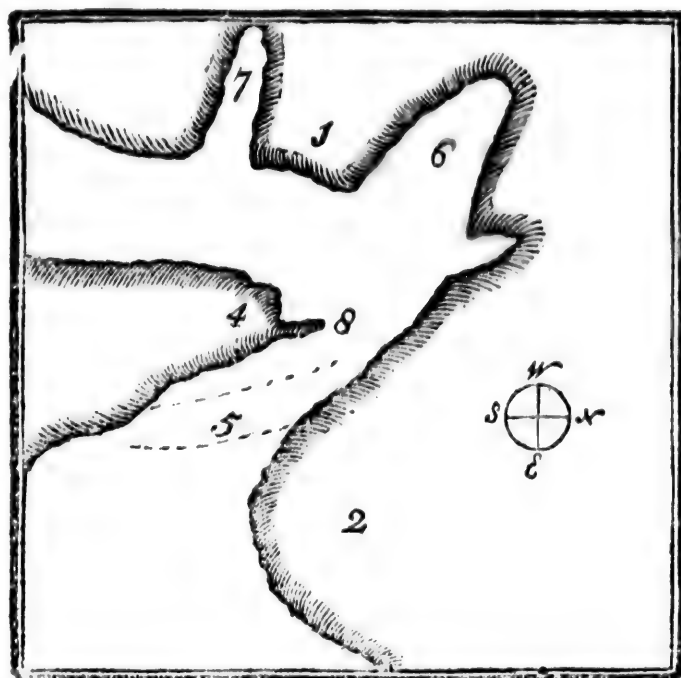
Sir,

Bristol, *Your most obedient Servant,*
 July 30, 1744. John Hodgson.

“ P. S. *I am obliged to go down to Kingroad*
 “ *To-night; but, perhaps, may not sail this*
 “ *Week; therefore beg you'd please to let me*
 “ *hear from you at the Return of the Post,*
 “ *directed for me at Mr. Kennedy's, at*
 “ *the Rising-Sun, on the Key.*”

T H E

[15]
THE PLAN.



REFERENCES.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Is <i>Cape Hope</i> . | about 16 or 18 Leagues long. |
| 2. Is the <i>Main</i> of the North-side of the <i>Frozen Straits</i> . | 6. Is <i>Mistake Bay</i> . |
| 4. Is the South-side of the <i>Straits</i> ; the narrowest Part about 4 or 5 Leagues wide, the broadest 6 or 7 Leagues, | 7. Is <i>Wager River</i> . |
| | 5. Is the outward Part of the <i>Frozen Straits</i> running away South East, by true Compass. |
| | 8. Point of <i>Cape Frigid</i> . |

The above is a true Plan, to which the annexed Affidavit refers.

John Hodgson.

The

*The Affidavit of Mr. John Hodgson.**King's Bench.*

JOHN Hodgson, now residing in the City of *Bristol*, but lately Master Carpenter belonging to his Majesty's Ship, called the *Furnace*, whereof *Christopher Middleton*, Esq; was then Captain, maketh Oath, That he, this Deponent, sailed in the said Ship *Furnace*, from *Great Britain* to *South America*, in order to find a *Passage* to the *South Sea*, and saith, the said Ship *Furnace*, in her said Voyage, arrived at *Cape Frigid*, in the *North-West Passage* on the *Main*; and on such Arrival, a *Plan* was taken by this Deponent, on *Board* the said Ship *Furnace*, at the Time the said Ship lay at *Cape Frigid*, of the *Frozen Straits* and the *Lands*, in the Presence of, and signed and allowed to be a just *Plan*, by *John Rankin*, Lieutenant; *Robert Wilson*, Master; *George Axx*, Gunner; and this Deponent; all belonging to the said Ship. And saith, That the *Plan* taken as aforesaid, was a true *Plan*; and that the hereunto annexed *Plan* is a true Copy thereof; he, this Deponent, having the original *Plan* in his *Journal*, now in his Possession, and saith, That the *Flood Tides* this Deponent found from *Wager River* towards *Cape Frigid*, came from the *East North-East* into *Mistake-Bay* from the *South-East*, which came through the *Frozen Straits*; and that *Cape Frigid* is a *Joynt-Land* with the *Low Beach*

Beach on the Welcome or Main ; and faith, That on coming off the Land of Cape Frigid in a Boat, near Sun Set, it was almost high Water, which drove the Ship away to the Westward on the Flood, and was like to have halled the said Ship into the Mouth of the Frozen Straits on the Ebb ; and that afterwards this Deponent went on Shore, which was about Eleven of the Clock the next Morning, the Water being fallen about five or six Foot ; and that all the Flood Tides came from the Eastward through the Straits, that flowed up Wager River to Brook Cobham.

John Hodgson.

Sworn at the City of Bristol this thirtieth Day of July, one thousand seven hundred and forty-four.

Edward Gyles, a Commissioner.

N. B. The Person who drew up this Affidavit, has made a Mistake in writing *South* for *North America*. This Mistake is visible in the Sequel, by the Words *North-West Passage* ; another Mistake is, *next Morning*, for the *same Morning* as appears in the Report this Deponent signed on Board.

On the Receipt of the above I wrote the following Letter to the Lords of the Admiralty.

My Lords,

I Take the Liberty to lay before your Lordships, for your Perusal, the Copy of a Letter, Plan and Affidavit which I received from the late Carpenter of the Furnace. Your Lordships will find they agree with Mr. *Wilson's* Answer, when examined at your Board to the 11th Query, printed in p. 177 of my Vindication; that they corroborate *Obediah Satchell's* Affidavit, which is in p. 90 of the *Appendix* to my *Reply*; that they confirm the Answer made to the 5th Query by *Donalson, Iverson, Monro, and Gill*, in p. 45 of the said *Appendix*; and flatly contradict the *Gunner and Clerk*, and Mr. *Moor*, who make *Cape Frigid* an Island, and also the Account they give of the Tides.

As I am satisfied your Lordship's Justice will make you find a Pleasure in every Thing which may afford you Light to do it to the Injured, an Apology for my troubling your Lordships would betray a Want of Judgment in

My LORDS,

Your LORDSHIPS

Most humble, most obedient

and most devoted Servant,

Christopher Middleton.

Suf-

Suspicion, as I have said, is no Proof ; but Providence which will never desert the Innocent and Oppressed, has furnished me with one that is irrefragable. On the 2d Day of *November* last I accidentally met Mr. *George Axx*, my late Gunner, and the supposed Author of the afore-said Letter and Draught, and taxed him with having contradicted the Truth of what he had signed when called into the Council upon the Voyage. He seemed surpris'd ; and upon my explaining myself, absolutely denied his having written, made, or sent such Letter and Draught, or either of them to any Person breathing ; on the 2d ditto, he came to my Lodgings, but I not being at home, he returned the next Day, and by a written Paper subscribed by himself, he again denied the said Letter and Draught being his, but averred it was a Forgery : Which Transactions are strongly proved by the following Negation of the said *Axx*, and Mr. *Dewilde's* Affidavit before a Master in Chancery. His pretended Letter being written out of the Remarks of my *Defence*, and he the said *Axx* having been shewn the forementioned Draught, signed this

A T T E S T A T I O N.

“ **G** E O R G E A X X, late Gunner, on board
 “ the *Furnace Sloop, Captain Middleton*,
 “ Commander, is ready and willing to make
 “ Oath, that he never sent this *Letter*, or any
 “ of the like kind to Mr. *Wigate*, or to any of
 D 2 the

“ the Lords of the Admiralty ; neither did he
 “ send a *Draught* of the *Frozen Straits*, as is
 “ mentioned in Page 144 and 145, in Mr.
 “ *Dobbs's Remarks* upon *Captain Middleton's*
 “ *Defence* ; so that I apprehend, if their Lord-
 “ ships had such a Letter from Mr. *Wigate*, it
 “ must be of his own Forging.

Nov. 3. 1744.

“ *George Axx.*”

Witness,

John Dewilde.

I acquainted the Lords of the Admiralty by a Letter to their Secretary with this Detection ; but being advised that I ought to have taken the Affidavit of the said *Axx*; and he being gone out of Town, I applied to their Lordships of the Admiralty, for an Order to bring him up to Town, which they were so good to grant. Hearing nothing from him, after some Days, I wrote to his Captain, or the Commanding Officer, on board the *Aldborough*, of which Ship he is Gunner. After having waited some Time, in hopes of seeing or hearing from him, I sent a Messenger to his House at *Greenwich*, who was told he was gone on board his Ship. I waited near a Week longer, when the Secretary of the Admiralty told me, That their Lordships had received an Answer from his Commanding Officer That the said *Axx* was not to be found, but that their Lordships, if I could find him, would command him up to
 at-

attend me. I then went down to *Greenwich*, to get Information from his Wife, who said, That the Day before she had received a Letter, which she gave me to read, and in which he acknowledged their Lordship's Orders for his coming to Town to wait upon *Captain Middleton*, and that he would be up in a short Time. I waited in expectation of seeing him for about Six Days, but hearing nothing of him, I again addressed myself to the Board of Admiralty, to obtain a peremptory Command for his, the said *Axx's*, coming to Town; with which their Lordships indulged me: But finding that had no Effect, some Days after I desired Mr. *Dewilde* to make Affidavit of what had passed between the said *Axx* and myself, to which he was a Witness; and he accordingly swore what follows, before a Master in Chancery.

“ John Dewilde of the *Parish* of St. Martin's
“ Ludgate, London, *Watch-Maker*,

“ **M**AKETH Oath, That on the 2d
“ of November, 1744, *George Axx*,
“ late Gunner of his Majesty's Ship *Furnace*,
“ when sent under the Command of *Captain*
“ *Christopher Middleton*, to endeavour at mak-
“ ing a Discovery of a North-West Passage
“ to the *Western American Ocean*, came to his
“ this Deponent's Dwelling-House, to enquire
“ after the said *Captain*, who is a Lodger, or
“ Inmate with this Deponent, but the said
“ *Cap-*

“ *Captain* not being at Home, he went away
 “ and returned the next Day, the 3d Inst. the
 “ *Captain* being then at Home, he, the said
 “ *George Axx*, did declare in the Presence and
 “ hearing of this Deponent, That he never
 “ wrote the Letter, or made the Draught
 “ printed (in Mr. *Dobbs*’s Pamphlet, entitled,
 “ *His Remarks*) with his Name, as Writer of
 “ the said Letter; farther, That he never
 “ wrote to any Lord of the Admiralty, or to
 “ Mr. *Wigate* (one of the Witnesses against the
 “ said *Captain*, to prove his Misconduct during
 “ the late Voyage on the Discovery of the a-
 “ foresaid Passage) or to any other Person
 “ whomever, with Relation to the said Voyage,
 “ to the Prejudice of the said *Captain*, of
 “ which he was ready and willing to make
 “ Oath, and would give the same under his
 “ Hand, and came on Purpose with that In-
 “ tent.

“ And the Deponent farther maketh Oath,
 “ that the said *Captain* advised the said *Axx* to
 “ be careful what he said or signed, as it
 “ might ruin him, if it was not the Truth;
 “ that he might possibly have been drawn in
 “ by *Wigate* to write the said Letter, and send
 “ it with the Draught; and if it was so,
 “ he had better acknowledge it; that his the
 “ *Captain*’s Name might have been counter-
 “ feited, and a Letter sent to require such a
 “ Draught of the said *Axx*, as signed by him.

“ To which the said *Axx*, who acknowledged
 “ the Receipt of a Letter from *Wigate* and *Thomp-*
 “ *son*,

“ *son*, (another Witness against the *Captain*)
 “ answered in these Words, or to the same
 “ Purport ; Sir, *I tell you I never did write to*
 “ *any one*. The *Captain* then said, Did you
 “ never write your Name on any Scrap of Pa-
 “ per, and leave it carelessly where *Wigate*
 “ could get, and make Use of, it? or Words
 “ to that Effect ; to which the said *Axx* an-
 “ swered, That he never had. The said *Cap-*
 “ *tain* admonished the said *Axx* several Times
 “ to be cautious in what he signed or swore.
 “ After which, the said *Axx* *cheerfully signed*
 “ *a Paper, in which he denies that he ever wrote*
 “ *or sent* the said Letter or Draught, to which
 “ his signing, he this Deponent, was a sub-
 “ scribing Witness.

“ *John Dewilde.*

“ *Sworn this 26th Day*
 “ *of November, 1744, at*
 “ *the public Office before*

“ R. Holford.”

This Behaviour of the Gunner's, Mr. *Axx*,
 is very surprising ; however, I shall not com-
 ment upon it, but go on and shew the mali-
 cious Design of this *Forgery* of a-piece with the
 rest of the Evidence given in against me ; for I
 have proved in my *Reply to the Remarks*, that
 Reports were altered, Figures in the Logg-
 Book changed --- * fictitious Evidence imposed

* Mr. *Ellis* of the *Victualling-Office*, and Mr. *Wilson*, abso-
 lutely deny what they have been made to say in Mr. *Dobbs's*
Remarks.

on the Public; the Lieutenant's Journal, which contradicts his own Testimony, surreptitiously taken away from the *Navy-Office*; and to corroborate what one of the Witnesses has advanced to prove my supposed *Roguary*, a Dictionary of the *Indian Language* is printed in that beautiful *Romance* with which Mr. *Dobbs* has obliged the Public; though unhappily the only Man in *England* who understands that Language, has given under his Hand that every Word of the aforesaid Dictionary is pure Invention.

But the World will certainly acquit a Gentleman of Mr. *Dobbs's* Character; and his established Reputation thrown into the opposite Scale of such base Procedures, must infallibly preponderate; though I acknowledge there is one Circumstance that staggers me, *viz.* the Incapacity of his Witnesses to contrive this Draught, calculated to invalidate all that I advanced, and to prove the Influx could not be from the *Eastern Sea*, but must come from the *Western American Ocean*; the Consequence of which can be no other than my having egregiously imposed on the Public, and villainously concealed the Passage which I was sent out to discover. To prove this, I shall quote Mr. *Dobbs's* own Words; p. 21 of his *Remarks*, he says, " That he reckons it a Misfortune that
 " my Men were dispersed before I sent him
 " my Journal," which, *to use his own Words*,
 " he delay'd, I believe, with a View that they
 " should not appear against him; for I was ob-
 " bliged to enquire after the proper Per-
 " sons

“ sons who knew most: The *Lieutenant*, *Surgeon*
 “ and *Clerk*, were in *London*, but the *Master*
 “ was in *Holland*, the *Carpenter* gone, nobody
 “ knew where, who was a material Evidence
 “ about the *Frozen Strait*. *Axx*, the *Gunner*,
 “ was at *Liverpool*, who was wrote to*, and
 “ sent his Answer and Draught to a Lord of
 “ the Admiralty, which is full against his *Fro-*
 “ *zen Strait*, and his Tide and Whales coming
 “ through it. It was but three Leagues wide,
 “ and full of Islands, surrounding the Island
 “ they stood upon.”

In p. 34, he says, “ my Answer about my
 “ *Frozen Strait* and Tide is all false, and cal-
 “ culated to impose upon the Public an errone-
 “ ous Tide and Current, for without some other
 “ Tide to be found out from the *Eastward*, I
 “ must of course allow the high Tides were oc-
 “ casioned by the Influx of a *Western Ocean*, and
 “ of course prove, that I have scandalously im-
 “ posed upon the Public in concealing the Dis-
 “ covery.

In the following Page he says, “ By com-
 “ paring the *Clerk's* Answer with the Account
 “ and Draught sent up by *Axx* the *Gunner*, to
 “ one of the Lords of the Admiralty, against
 “ the Account he has set down in his (i.e. my)
 “ Log and Journal, *his* spacious *frozen Strait*,

* Though this looks like a Combination against me, as if my
 Ruin was designed, and the Methods to complete it consulted
 with mature Deliberation, yet it is possible the Industry here used
 was with no other View than to discover the Truth, and Mr.
Dobbs himself may have been imposed upon.

“ an hundred Fathoms deep, is a mere Fiction,
 “ and is dwindled into an Arm of the Sea three
 “ Leagues wide, full of Islands, which sur-
 “ rounded the Island they stood upon, and se-
 “ parated it from the *Low Beach*, as appears
 “ from the *Gunner's Draught* of it, which ex-
 “ actly agrees with the *Clerk's Account*, * &c.

Mr. *Dobbs* himself has here shewn of what Use this *Draught* was, to the Cause he endeavoured to support; for making the *Frozen Straits* imaginary, the Influx of the *Eastern Tides* are shut out, and by fictitious *Openings*†, the Tides are brought in from the *Western American Ocean*. And were these incontestable Facts, I must really be the vile Rascal I have been represented to that Gentleman.

As on the one Hand this Contrivance is beyond the Depth of the most artful of his Wittenesses, who has but just Cunning enough to be a *Rogue*; and, as on the other, the Design is too villainous and too fatal in its Consequences, had it succeeded, for a Gentleman of Mr. *Dobbs's Great Probity*, to be concerned in it, I know not, I must confess, what Judgment to make, and yet I am as ready to believe as any one who is *thoroughly* acquainted with him, that he was himself imposed upon; for none but the most *profligate Wretch* could (actuated by the meanest and most *pernicious Passion*) carry on the *blackest*

* I think the Detection of this *Letter* and *Draught* being a *Forgery* accounts for this Agreement.

†Vide Mr. *Dobbs's Chart*, in which an *Opening* is made (called *Rankin's*) to let in the *Tides* from the *Westward*.

and most *dangerous Designs*: A Gentleman of his *Virtue* could not willfully and deliberately endeavour to blast a hitherto unblemished *Character*; he would not *aim* at the *ruining* of an innocent Man and his Family, for no other Reason but for his having strictly complied with the Instructions of his Superiors, and performed the Duty incumbent on him; he must be incapable, the World will think, to have a Hand in so *mean*, so *dirty*, and *scandalous* a Crime as *Forgery*; a *Forgery* too! so big with Mischiefs, and which could have no other Tendency (at least apparent) than to the Gratification of two Vices, *Revenge* and *Avarice*, abhorrent from the Principles of *Men of Honour*: A *Forgery*! more fatal in its Consequences than such as are the Effects of Necessity; they cannot *involve* a whole Family, and bring on inevitable *Ruin* of both *Fortune* and *Character*; a Man may be *robbed* of his Estate by *forged Deeds*, but they strike not at his *Reputation*; but the present *Forgery* was calculated to *destroy* my good *Name*, as well as to take away my *Bread*, to *beggar* me in my Circumstances, load me with *Infamy*, and entail that, and *Want*, on my *poor Infants*, by depriving me of all future Means for their *Provision*.

As a Crime of this *flagitious Nature* can hardly be imputed to a Gentleman of Mr. *Dobbs's* Figure, Character and Fortune, I may reasonably conclude, that the World deemed my treating the above Letter as a *Forgery*, proceeded rather from my being gruelled, and

unable to refute such home Evidence, than to my real Belief of its not being genuine: That the Gunner might, while under my Command, be intimidated; and for that Reason, signed what I thought conducive to my Defence, upon an Enquiry into my Conduct; but that now all Apprehensions, which might obstruct the Truth, being removed, he had the Courage and Honesty to speak it. It is reasonable for the Public to make such Conclusions when they reflect on the *Improbability* of a Gentleman in high *Repute* for *social Virtues*, great *Learning* and *Prudence*, being guilty of a Crime so *flagrant in its Nature*, so *destructive in its Consequences*.

As the World entertains this great Opinion of Mr. *Debbs*, they could not, on one Hand believe him a *Particeps Criminis*, an *Accomplice*; or, on the other, imagine his *Prudence* was to be *surprised*; and yet so true is the old Saying --- *The wisest Man is failable*; that here his *indofatigable Industry* to discover the *Truth*, made him *overlook* the *Character* given him (by his *own Friends*, Mr. *Lanrick* and *Gill*) of two of his *Witnesses*, Mr. *Wigate* and *Thompson*, who had such an Influence over him, that Mr. *Lendrick's Confirmation* of the *Frozen Strait* being as I have lain it down, was of no Weight. In his Letter dated from the *Orkneys*, *Sept. 16, 1742*, printed in the *News-Papers*, he says, " We went o'Shore to take a Survey from
" the Top of a high Mountain, when we could
" see the Sea all fastfroze in one solid Body for

" a Matter of twenty Leagues away to the S.E.
 " and finding at the same time that the Flood
 " Tide came from thence, we were fully con-
 " firmed, that it had a Communication with
 " the *East-Sea*, and that there was no such
 " Thing as a Passage into the *Western Ocean*,
 " as we expected."

The *Zeal* which actuated Mr. *Dobbs* in the
 Search of *Truth*, hindered his reflecting on the
 Incapacity of his Witnesses to inspect into my
 Conduct; so prevalent was his Love of *Justice*,
 that it stopped his *Ears* to the Remonstrances
 of his Friends, he gave implicit *Faith* to what-
 ever seemed tending to the Detection of *Fraud*;
 and thus Excess of *Virtue* laid him open to the
 Wiles, and made him the Implement, of wicked
 and designing Men.

The Danger of Ruin is always in proportion
 to the Assailant; and therefore it is well nigh
 impossible for the most upright Person, when
 his good Name is attacked by a Man of esta-
 blished Reputation to get off without some Blemish
 in his Character; the Improbability, nay,
 the Absurdity of the Charge brought against
 him, the Reasons he may offer in his Defence,
 the natural Inferences drawn, the closest and
 most rational Arguments, his *Appeal* to his
 former, and irreproachable Conduct, the *unful-
 lied Character* he has ever borne, nay the Wit-
 nesses he produces, though of undoubted good
 Reputation, will not set him right in every one's
 Opinion, and possibly, the voluntary *Evidence*
 of such as appear in his *Vindication*, will be
 made

made a Handle to persecute him with greater *Calumny*, by taxing him with *Subornation of Perjury*: This is what I have learned from fatal Experience, in the Dispute between Mr. *Dobbs* and myself.

I had Mr. *Dobbs's* great *Character*, the *Evidence* of this artful *Draught*, the Strength of his Reasonings upon it, with his *captivating Inferences* to combat, which may be termed a *Herculean Labour*; *Truth* and *Innocence* were on my *Side*; the *Struggle* was long and *dubious*, but *Time* coming in to my *Assistance*, has turn'd the *Scale of Victory* in my *Favour*; and I leave Mr. *Dobbs* to the Task imposed upon him by his *Witnesses* of cleansing this *Augean Stable*, which will not be difficult to perform, if he turns into it the *River of Truth*, as *Hercules* did that of *Alpheus*.

On the whole, Mr. *Dobbs* throughout this *Affair*, warmed with the *Zeal* of *Public Good*, has been so very much unguarded in his *Expressions*, that he has shewn a *Junonian Rage* in his Writings, which has hurried him beyond the Bounds of *Decency*; But on whom must I charge this *Forgery*? Not one of my *Officers* who have sided with Mr. *Dobbs* could be actuated by a *Spirit of Revenge* for any ill *Usage*, while under my *Command*; they having often, and in *different Companies*, extolled me for my *Humanity* to themselves and others. They could not thus endeavour to ruin my *Character* and *Fortune* from any *Prospect* of *Gain*, or *Advantage*, if not what they hoped from Mr. *Dobbs's* Interest,

terest, by being subservient to his Dictates. Farther, neither *Wigate* nor *Thompson* had the Capacity to invent this *Forgery*. But then his incomparable Character forbids my entertaining a Thought so contrary to it. I own I cannot reconcile that Gentleman's printing and publishing this *Forgery*, with his universal *Reputation*; and though it may seem reasonable to conclude from his own Words, and Endeavours to engage the Government to send other Ships on the Discovery, that he proposed to himself vast Advantages, and thought that the properest Method to induce the Ministry to make a second Tryal, was, if possible, to prove I had treacherously concealed the *Discovery*; the Anger he has expressed in his *Remarks*, and his avowed *Design* to break the *Hudson's-bay Company*, might with some resenting Men excuse me, if I attributed his *Persecution of one who never willingly offended him*, to a *Thirst of more*, and a *Spirit of Revenge* for my having disappointed him in a Design of diving into the Company's Profits by the Sale of such Goods as were clandestinely put on Board his Majesty's Ship. For could Mr. *Dobbs* have carried his Point, we may suppose by what is passed, he would have sent a considerable Cargoe; and as he imagines the Company make 2,000*l. per Cent.* he might flatter himself with *Gains immense*, while the Public supported the Charge, and ran the Hazard of the Voyage. This Way of thinking, I say, a warm Man might excuse; but far be it from me, to entertain a Thought, which could

could not affect that Gentleman, but on the contrary, must infallibly call my Judgment in Question; and I will neither believe, though he published the Forgery, that he had a Hand in the Contrivance, or was interested in its being thought genuine. He could never, though Appearances make so very strongly against him, contrive, or encourage, such an infamous Piece of *Villainy*; wherefore, as I cannot, with Prudence charge him with so foul a Guilt, and on the other Hand know, his Witnesses too shallow to be capable of it themselves, I will form no Judgment, hoping that Mr. *Dobbs* will furnish me a Clew to bring me out of this Labyrinth.

As I hope never more to be under the Necessity of troubling the Public, I beg leave to subjoin Part of Governor *Iskam's* Second Letter to clear myself from the Imputation of Cruelty to the *Indian* Linguists, with which I am taxed in Mr. *Dobbs's Remarks*; the Governor's former Letter takes notice of the Return of one of those *Indians*, and the annexed, of the other's; so that both, by authentic Evidence, are arrived safe.

“ Sir,

“ I Was in Hopes to have heard from you,
 “ and am glad to hear you are in Health as
 “ I am at present; I have staid this Year, and
 “ please God I do well, I hope to see you next
 “ Year,

“ Year, being resolved to return Home; I understand, Sir, some Persons will not give credit the two Indians are alive that you put ashore; yes, Sir, I can assure such, that they are both alive, and I have seen them, and Southward Indians have talked to them, when I understood they were well used, and that they saw nothing of any great River, not going in Land far, keeping more to the Southward along Shore, ’till they arrived at that Part where their Families lay, &c. &c.

“ *James Iskam.*”

“ *Prince of Wales’s Fort,*
“ *Churchill River, dated*
“ *Aug. 15. 1744.*”

“ *To Capt. Christopher Middleton.*”

Mr. *Smith*, Master of the Company’s Sloop, last Summer, at *Churchill River*, where he has been some Years in that Employ, is now in *England*, and in Town. He has seen and spoken with both the *Indian* Linguists, so that here is irrefragable Proof, that the Charge of Cruelty brought against me, was, could be, with no other Design, than to blacken my Character, and make me odious in the Eyes of every humane Man --- Mr. *Smith* may be found at Capt. *Spurrel’s* on *Stepney Causeway* near *Ratcliff*.



POSTSCRIPT.

WHILE the above was in the Press, and too late to alter, Mr. *Axx*, the Gunner came to Town, on Purpose to make Affidavit that he was not the Author of either the Letter or Draught, to which his Name was printed in Mr. *Dobbs's Remarks*, and is here before mentioned; which Affidavit he made before a Master in Chancery, as follows.

*Affidavit of George Axx, late Gunner of the
Furnace.*

WHEREAS in a Pamphlet entitled, *Remarks upon Capt. Middleton's Defence &c.* published under the Name of *Arthur Dobbs, Esq*; there is a Letter and Draught printed with my Name, as the Author of both, in Page 144 and 145 of the said Pamphlet, which I apprehend is with a malicious Design to injure the aforesaid Captain, and is a Reflection on my own Reputation,

I *George Axx*, late Gunner of his Majesty's Ship the *Furnace*, when sent upon a Discovery
of

P O S T S C R I P T.

of a *North-West* Passage, under the Command of Capt. *Christopher Middleton*, make Oath, that I never did write the said Letter, or make any such Draught as is published under my Name, or sent any Letter or Draught with Relation to Capt. *Middleton*, or the aforefaid Voyage, to either Mr. *Wygate*, a Lord of the Admiralty, or to any other Person whomever ; since my Return from the said Voyage, as is falsly asserted in the said Pamphlet, and that both the said Letter and Draught are absolutely forged.

George Axx.

*Sworn at the Public Office
1st. Dec. 1744, before
T. Burroughs.*

F I N I S.

The Reader is desired to observe, that the Letter said to be written to the Lords of the Admiralty, was, by Mistake, printed from a Copy of a Letter which was not sent, instead of a Copy of that which was sent, and directed to the Honourable *Thomas Corbett*, Esq; Secretary to the Admiralty, to be laid before their Lordship's; it is Word for Word the same; only the Letter sent ended at the Words *Afford them Light to do Justice*: Also, in p. 3. l. 10. to read, instead of *having taken* ; *having, as it is suggested, been offered* ; and in p. 29. l. 10. to read *Incapacity*.